



The President's Daily Brief

4 July 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 1*.



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South Vietnam is uneasy about US intentions in the Paris talks. (*Page 4*)

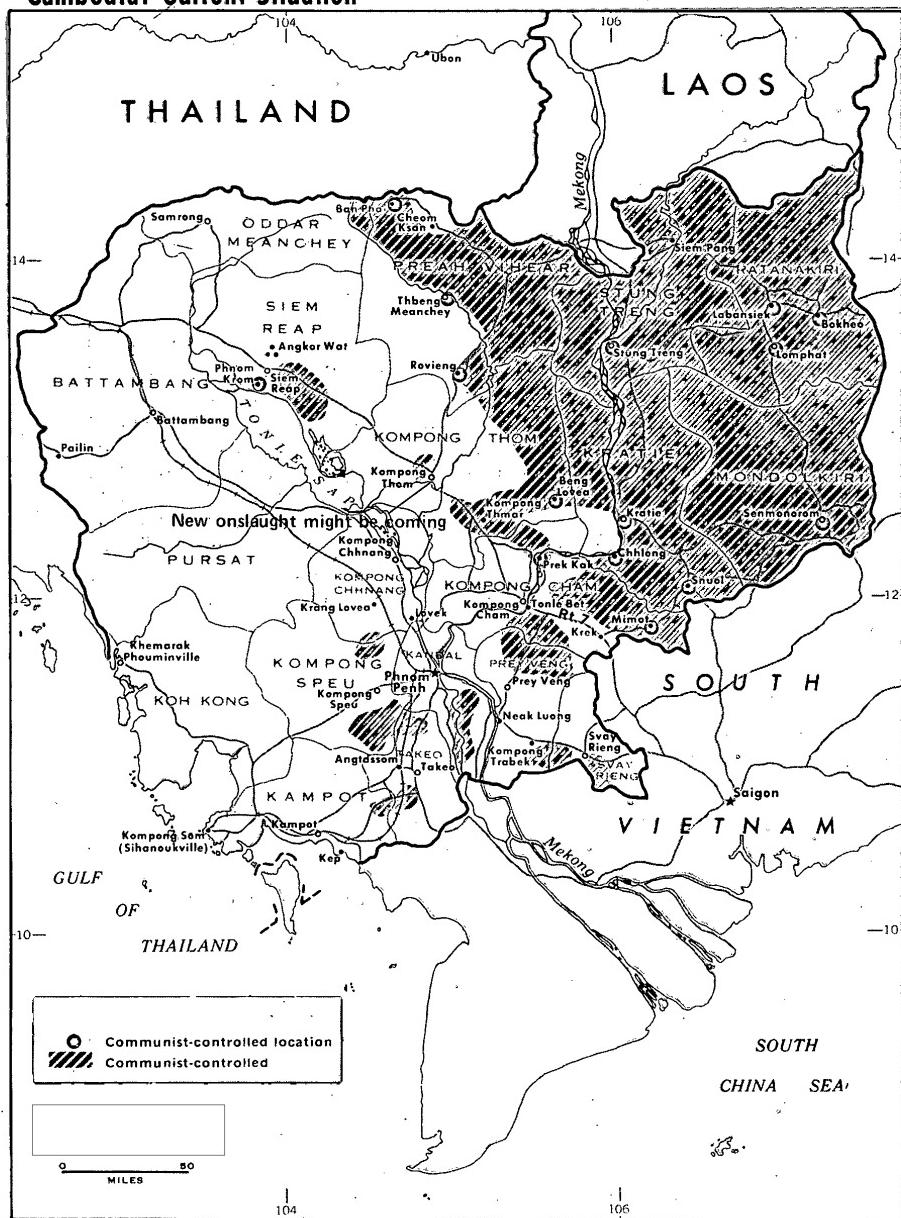
The Vietnamese Communists are belittling the appointment of Ambassador Bruce. (*Page 5*)

The Heath government wants to revise its predecessor's plans to withdraw from east of Suez. (*Page 6*)

The USSR conducted another short range test of the modified SS-11 ICBM on 2 July. (*Page 7*)

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Cambodia: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists continue to harass provincial capitals in many areas, but no new major fighting has developed.

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Even though security precautions in Phnom Penh are poor, there have been few if any instances of Communist terrorism or sabotage.

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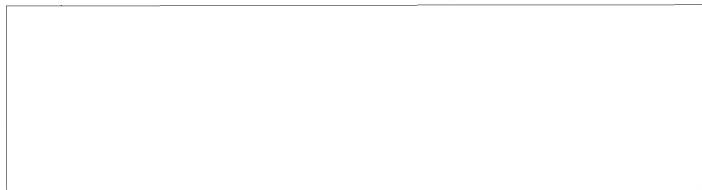
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It seems unlikely that Saigon would tie up all its elite airborne forces for the duration of the rainy season; elements of the division, however, might be sent into the Mimat area.

(continued)

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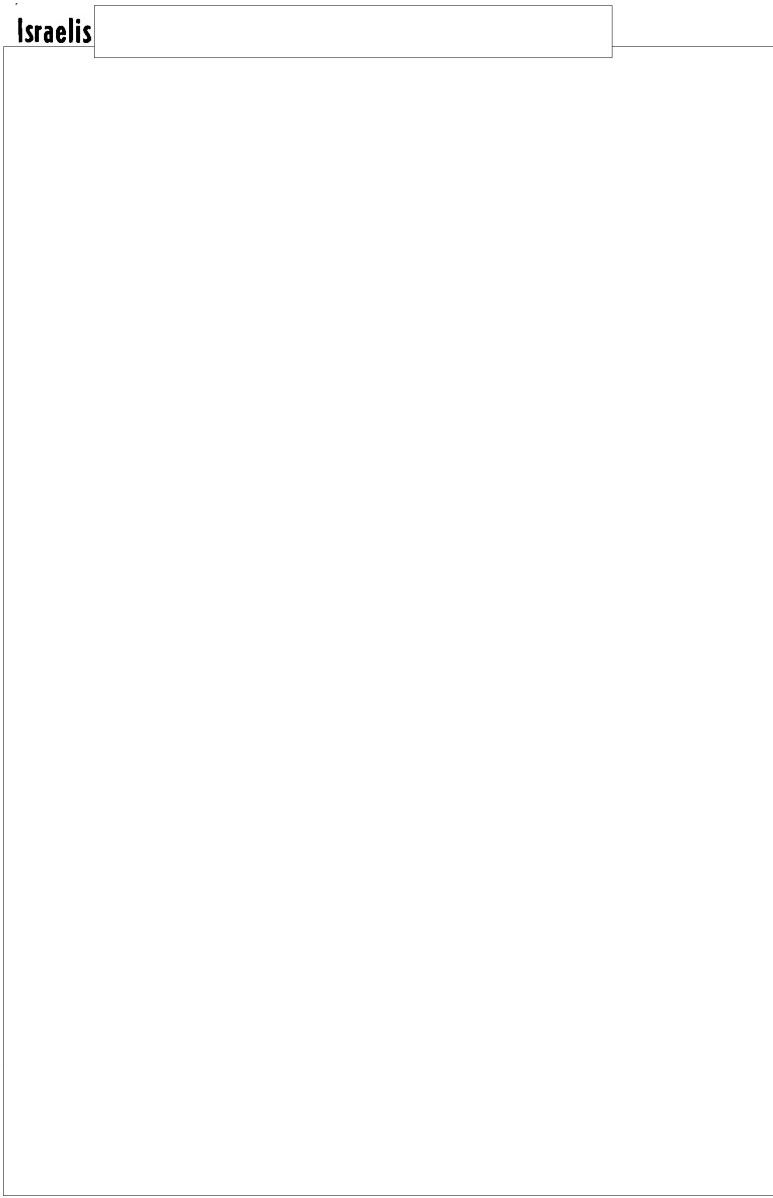
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Sirik Matak, in a recent conversation with Chargé Rives, took note of rumors making the rounds that Hanoi would be willing to return to the status quo ante if Lon Nol bowed out in favor of Penn Nouth, Sihanouk's "prime minister." Matak expressed "grave doubt" that this would be acceptable. He did not rule out, however, the possibility of coming to terms with the Communists. On the key problem of Communist troops in Cambodia, Matak said the situation could not revert to what it was under Sihanouk. But he did say the removal of Communist forces could take place "over a period of time."

Matak's remarks appear to bear out other reports that he is somewhat more flexible than Lon Nol on the question of making a deal with the Communists. How long the "period of time" will be before Communist troops leave Cambodia has been what the Cambodians and the Vietnamese Communists have been arguing about since Sihanouk raised the issue at least a year ago. In the early days after Sihanouk's fall, Phnom Penh demanded a complete and almost immediate withdrawal, a position which subsequently softened somewhat. For their part, the Communists have been willing to agree in principle to the complete withdrawal of their forces, but have held firmly to the position that implementation will not be possible until the Vietnam war ends.

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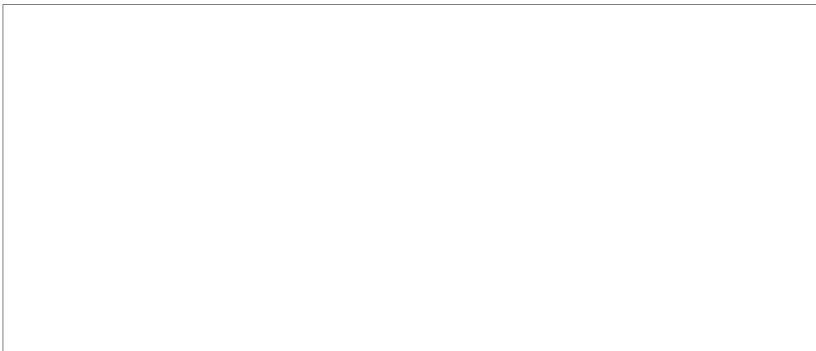


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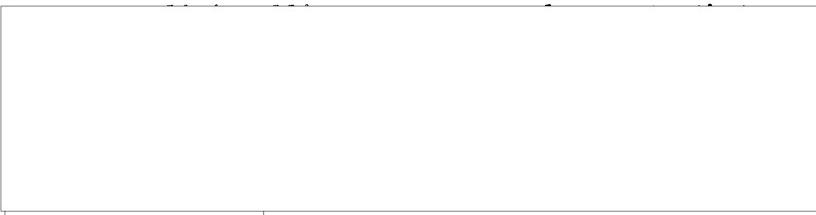
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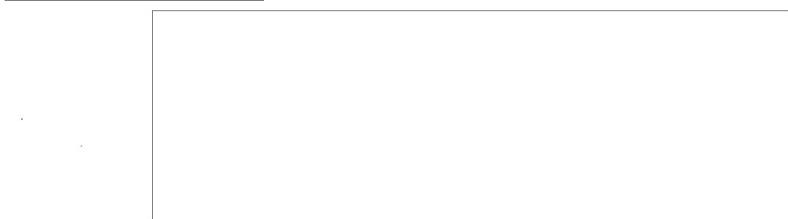
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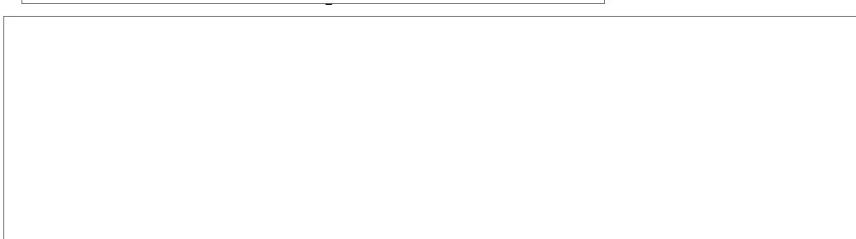
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SOUTH VIETNAM

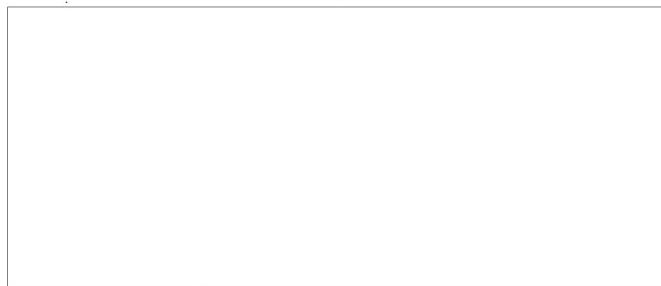


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NORTH VIETNAM

The Vietnamese Communists are belittling Ambassador Bruce's appointment. Most commentary so far, including statements issued in Paris Thursday, takes the line that President Nixon was forced to make the appointment in order to appease critics of administration policies. Radio Hanoi yesterday broadcast a statement on the appointment by Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh charging that Bruce's designation was merely a "correction" of US policy and adding that no "peace hoax" can sway the Vietnamese Communists.

For at least the next few weeks, Hanoi probably will not want to give any appearance of responding positively to US urgings that the time is ripe for getting the negotiations back on the track. The Communists, nonetheless, are almost certain to return one or more members of their first team to Paris soon after Ambassador Bruce arrives--if only to probe for the substance of his instructions.

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UNITED KINGDOM

London now hopes to be able to maintain some military forces in the Singapore-Malaysia area. At the SEATO conference in Manila on 2 July, the British delegate said that the Tory government will review all its commitments in the light of British resources and will then consult with Commonwealth partners about keeping at least some British forces in that area. He stated, "We are here. If our friends want us, we intend to remain here."

On another aspect of Britain's east of Suez policy--the Persian Gulf area--Prime Minister Heath has not yet made up his mind.

Iran and, to a lesser extent, Saudi Arabia want the British to pull out on schedule, as the Wilson government promised. The rulers of the British protectorates in the Gulf, however, probably are hoping that the Tories can lighten the burden of responsibility placed on them by Labor's withdrawal policy.

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NOTE

USSR: A modified SS-11 ICBM was fired from Tyuratam to an undetermined short range on 2 July. Two other tests of the modified SS-11 were conducted in June to ranges of about 500-600 miles. The modifications to the SS-11 include larger fuel tanks for increased range.

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If testing continues satisfactorily, the new system probably will be ready for deployment late this year.

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